Program Chair Annual Report

NACBS/NWCBS Joint Meeting, Portland, Oregon, October 24-26, 2003

2002 Program Committee:

Seth Koven (Chair, Villanova University), post-1832
Antoinette Burton (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), empire
Katherine French (SUNY, New Paltz), pre-1500
Douglas Peers (University of Calgary), NWCBS Representative, post-1832
Steve Pincus (University of Chicago) 1660-1832
Joseph Ward (University of Mississippi) 1500-1660

Deadline for receipt of proposals was 24 January, 2003. We received 38 panels and 26 single paper submissions from which we accepted and created 38 regular panels. The proposals were processed in February, disseminated to Program Committee members and reviewed in March and April. The Program Committee worked especially hard to place strong individual submissions on the program either by adding them to existing panel proposals or creating entirely new panels. Letters of acceptance and rejection were mailed during the last week of April, 2003. The final program (with participants' amendments and corrections to the proofs sent to them) and the list of participants' audio-visual and technological needs were sent to the NWCBS on June 10, 2003.

This year's conference features three plenary speakers: Martin Wiener (Presidential plenary address), Jean Howard, and Thomas Laqueur. Professors Howard and Laqueur were selected in consultation with members of the Executive Committee. I am grateful to them for their help in securing our plenary speakers. This year's semi-plenaries, organized by the Program Chair in partnership with the Program Committee, are "Interdisciplinary Approaches to Political Economy" and "The British Pacific?" Program Committee members played key roles in identifying and inviting semi-plenary participants. The semi-plenary on the British Pacific was inspired by my desire to link the content of the conference to its location in the Pacific Northwest as well as build on the previous semi-plenary discussion on "Rethinking Atlantic Worlds. This goal was also promoted by scheduling a regular panel (Panel 36) on Archeological and Historic Research on British Occupations in the Pacific Northwest immediately followed by a tour of Fort Vancouver. I am grateful to David Savage for coordinating this welcome addition to the program. A third plenary special session resulted from the initiative and activities of the Institute of Historical Research on "Electronic Resources for Historians from the Institute of Historical Research and Its Partners" and was coordinated by David Cannadine and Helen Cornish.

As well as planning the annual conference, I worked with the staff of the American Historical Association to organize NACBS co-sponsorship of sessions at the 2004 AHA Annual Meeting. The Program Chair received the advice and approval of the Executive Committee for these co-sponsorships.

Let me offer some observations about this year's program in comparison to last year. We received 38 panel proposals compared to 44 in 2002 (a 14% decline); and 26 single papers compared to 59 in 2002 (a 56% decline). Despite the decline in the number of submissions, the Program Committee believed that there was no diminution in the quality of the proposals we accepted. The Call for Papers was circulated in at least as many print and web-based venues as in previous years. Program Committee members also actively recruited panels. Thus it seems likely that the location of the conference in Portland, Oregon accounts at least partly for the substantial drop in the number of proposed panel and individual paper submissions.

In consultation with the Program Committee and members of the Executive Committee, the Program Chair scheduled one rather than two sets of panels (as in previous years) on Sunday morning to accommodate the likelihood that a large percentage of participants necessarily would be taking flights leaving Portland before 1 pm. This accounts for the reduction from 47 (2002) to 43 (2003) total panels and special sessions. The Tour of Historic Fort Vancouver occupies the time slot reserved in past years for a second Sunday session.

Inheriting such a well run program from my predecessors, I nonetheless found myself relying on the help of many people during my first year as Program Chair. The immediate past-program chair, Angela Woollacott, members of the current Program Committee, and members of the Executive Committee provided on-going and invaluable support throughout the year. I extend my thanks to David Savage for so effectively taking on double duties as President of the NWCBS and as Chair of Local Arrangements. I received outstanding support from two graduate research assistants at Villanova University, Carmen Breslin and Laura Moyer Salvucci as well as the assistance of members of the professional staff of the Department of History, Villanova University: Mrs. Georgiana Kilroy and Mrs. Christine Filiberti.

For support of this year's conference, we thank Adam Matthew Publications, The Institute of Historical Research, Lewis & Clark College, The Portland State University Department of History, and Villanova University Department of History.

Respectfully submitted,
Seth Koven
Program Chair, NACBS

Statistical Analysis of 2003 Conference

The most dramatic statistical change is the total number of proposals received, discussed above. Most other statistical measures of the distribution of participants/proposals across gender, status in the profession, country, and time period remained relatively stable between 2003 and 2003.

Non-US based participants, 2003: 28%;
Non-US based participants, 2002: 27%

% of Male and Female Participants, 2003: 53% male, 47% female
% of Male and Female Participants, 2002: 48% male, 52% female

Distribution of Proposals Received by Period
2003, Post-1832 + Empire = 33.3% + 18.1% = 51.4%
2002, Post-1832 + Empire = 32% + 19% = 51%

Percentage of Graduate Students
2003: 10.5%
2002: 13.0%

Percentage of Full Professors
2003: 26.5%
2002: 30.0%

Percentage of Non-Historian Participants
2003: 28%
2002: 32%

Participants:

	Participants, Panels	Participants, Semi-Plenary & Special Session	**Total**	2002 Total
Total Participants	184	15	**199**	232
Male Participants	97	7	**104**	114
Female Participants	87	8	**95**	118

Panels/Sessions

Type	Total	2002 Total
Panels	38	42
Semi-plenary Sessions	2	2
Special Sessions	1	1
Plenaries	2	2
Total Panels/Sessions	**43**	**47**

Papers (Includes Plenaries, Semi-Plenaries, and Special Session)

	2003	2002
Total Papers	**133**	**148**

Status of Participants

Status	Participants, Panels	Participants, Panels & Special Sessions	2002 Panels and Special Sessions
Graduate Student	21	21	31
Post Doc/Temp/Adjunct	9	9	11
Assistant	40	41	60
Associate	37	39	46
Professor	46	53	70
Lecturer	17	17	0
Reader	3	3	0
Independent	1	1	2
Other	10	15	12
Total	**181**	**199**	**232**

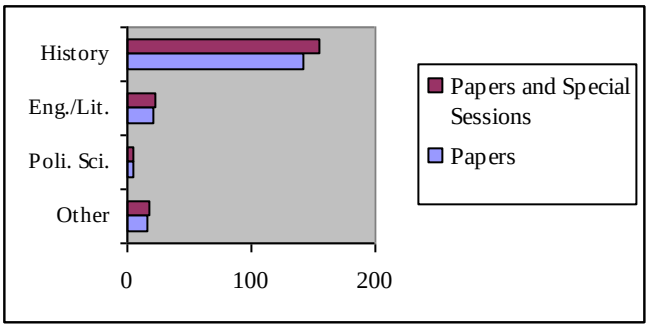
Institutional Affiliation by Nation

Country	Participants, Panels	Participants, Panels and Special Sessions	Percentage, Panels & Special Sessions	2002 Panels and Special Sessions
United States	138	143	72%	170
United Kingdom	27	33	16.5%	43
Canada	15	18	9%	13
Australia	3	4	2%	1
France	1	1	0.5%	1
Other	0	0	0%	4
Total	**184**	**199**	**100%**	**232**

Departmental Affiliation

	Participants, Panels	Participants, Panels and Special Sessions	Percentage, Panels & Special Sessions	2002 Papers and Special Sessions
History	142	155	78%	158
English/Literature	21	22	11%	34
Political Science	5	5	2.5%	3
Art History	0	0	0	5
Theater History	0	0	0	5
Interdisciplinary	3	3	1.5%	16
Law	3	3	1.5%	0
Humanities	2	2	1%	0
Education	1	1	0.5%	1
Women's Studies	1	1	0.5%	0
Other	6	7	3.5%	10
Total	**184**	**199**	**100%**	**232**

Departmental Affiliation, 2003



Papers Received by Period

Period	Number Received	Percentage Received	Number Accepted	Percentage Accepted
Pre-1500	8	5.8%	6	75%
1500-1660	23	16.7%	21	91%
1660-1832	30	21.7%	28	93%
Post 1832	46	33.3%	37	80%
Empire	25	18.1%	23	92%
Pedagogy	6	4.3%	4	67%
Total	**138**	**----**	**119**	**----**

Papers Received by Period, 2003